

14 AUG 2000

DAIM-KUAN YEW

DAIM HOLDS INFORMAL TALKS WITH KUAN YEW

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin and Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew held an informal meeting lasting about half an hour here tonight.

Daim had called on Lee at the Mandarin Oriental hotel for the meeting before adjourning for dinner.

Other VIPs who attended the dinner included former Penang chief minister Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu, former foreign ministers Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie and Tengku Tan Sri Ahmad Rithauddeen, former health minister Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan and the country's former special envoy to the United Nations, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad.

Lee arrived here this afternoon for a four-day working visit. Singapore's elder statesman, who is on his first working visit to this country after handing over the premiership to Goh Chok Tong about a decade ago, travelled by road along the North-South Expressway after crossing the Causeway from Singapore.

The informal meeting between the two ministers was the first programme in Lee's itinerary.

Lee is scheduled to hold talks with several Malaysian leaders, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Tomorrow, the 77-year-old senior minister and his entourage, including his wife, Kwa Geok Choo, and 10 officials, will visit the Petronas Twin Towers here.

He will also tour Putrajaya, the country's new administrative centre, and call on Dr Mahathir and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

On Wednesday, Lee is also expected to attend a forum organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) here where he will present a paper on "East Asia's Status in the 21st Century".

On Thursday, Lee will meet defence minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and tour the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang before leaving for home. -- BERNAMA

ZMY SHY